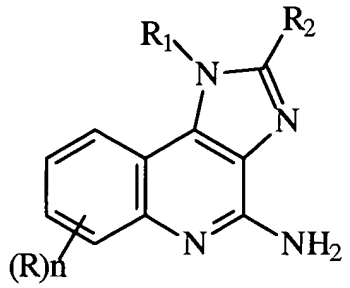
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-19 and 34-37. Please amend the following claims:

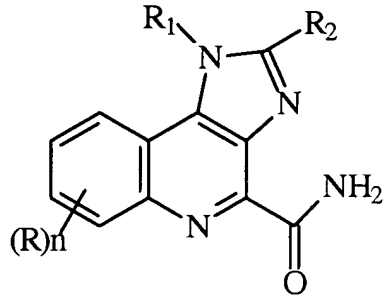
1 - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof:



(I)

comprising subjecting a compound of formula (IV) or a salt thereof:



(IV)

to a Hofmann rearrangement or degradation reaction, whereby the amide group of said compound is degraded to form an amine group at the corresponding position of the quinoline ring system, thus forming a compound of formula (I), wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; a straight or branched chain alkyl of one to about 10 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; straight or branched chain alkenyl of 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, wherein the olefinic unsaturation in the alkenyl group is at least one carbon atom removed from the 1-nitrogen, and wherein the straight or branched chain ~~alkyl~~ alkenyl is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; straight or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R is independently selected from the group consisting of: alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms; alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms; and halogen; and

n is an integer from 0 to 2, with the proviso that if n is 2, then said groups together contain no more than 6 carbon atoms.

21. (Original) The process of claim 20, wherein R_1 is isobutyl, R_2 is hydrogen, and n is 0.

22. (Original) The process of claim 20, wherein the Hofmann degradation is effected by reacting said compound of formula (IV) with an alkali or alkaline earth metal salt of a hypohalus acid and a strong base to form a suspension.

23. (Original) The process of claim 22, wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal salt of a hypohalus acid is selected from the group consisting of NaOCl and NaOBr.

24. (Original) The process of claim 22, wherein the strong base is selected from the group consisting of NaOH, KOH and MgO.

25. (Original) The process of claim 22, wherein the suspension comprises 1,2-dimethoxyethane and water.

26. (Original) The process of claim 25, further comprising acidifying the suspension.

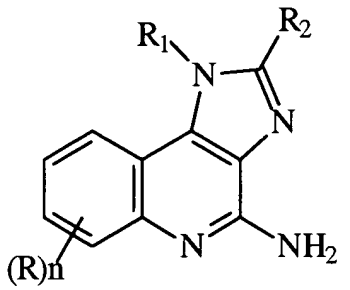
27. (Original) The process of claim 26, further comprising distilling off the 1,2-dimethoxyethane and water.

28. (Original) The process of claim 20, wherein the reaction takes place at a temperature of between 50-52 °C.

29. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 20, wherein the reaction is complete ~~is~~ in about 2 hours.

30. (Original) The process of claim 20, further comprising purifying the compound of formula (I) by crystallizing or recrystallizing it.

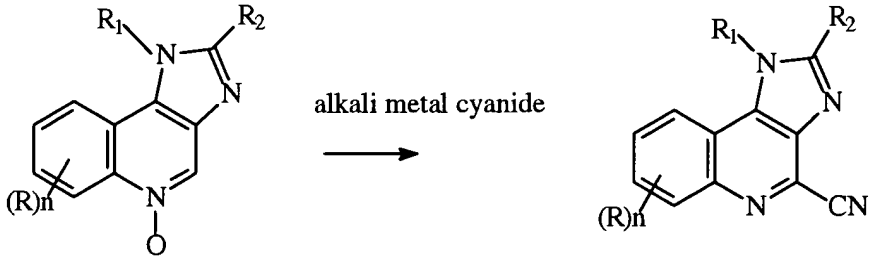
31. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof:



(I)

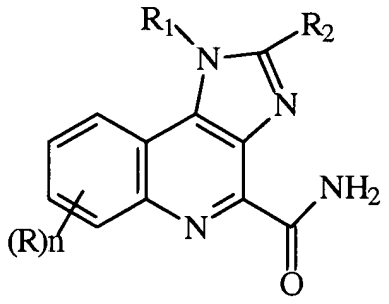
comprising:

a) reacting a compound of formula (III) with an alkali metal cyanide in an organic solvent and water to form a solution of a compound of formula (II) or a salt thereof:



(III) (II)

b) reacting the solution of a compound of formula (II) or a salt thereof with an aqueous solution of a strong acid to form a compound of formula (IV) or a salt thereof:



(IV)

and

c) subjecting the compound of formula (IV) or a salt thereof to a Hofmann rearrangement or degradation reaction, whereby the amide group of said compound is degraded to form an amine group at the corresponding position of the quinoline ring system, thus forming a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof,

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; a straight or branched chain alkyl of one to about 10 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; straight or branched chain alkenyl of 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, wherein the olefinic unsaturation in the alkenyl group is at least one carbon atom removed from the 1-nitrogen, and wherein the straight or branched chain ~~alkyl~~ alkenyl is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; straight or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties

together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R is independently selected from the group consisting of: alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms; alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms; and halogen; and

n is an integer from 0 to 2, with the proviso that if n is 2, then said groups together contain no more than 6 carbon atoms.

32. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~16 or~~ 31, further comprising distilling | off the organic solvent in b) at a temperature of about 50-52 °C to form a suspension.

33. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~claim 16 or~~ claim 32, further comprising | cooling the suspension and filtering it to isolate the compound of formula (IV).

34-37. (Cancelled)